

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01353 211202Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----212128Z 042389 /63

R 211131Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4202
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1353

EXDIS

DEPT PASS UNCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, ET, SO, SU, XW
SUBJECT: POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING ON HORN OF AFRICA

REF: STATE 085332; ADDIS ABABA 2337

1. IN LIGHT ADDIS REFTTEL, WISH RE-EMPHASIZE FOR RECORD
THAT ANY CONTINUATION PROVISION LETHAL MILITARY EQUIP-
MENT FOR ETHIOPIA WOULD IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES BE
FOUND INCOMPREHENSIBLE HERE BY NIMEIRI AND HIS
GOVERNMENT. AS TO ANY USG MILITARY EQUIPMENT SOLD
SUDAN, PRESUME LETTER OF OFFER OR SIMILAR DOCUMENT
CONTAINS STANDARD LANGUAGE RE LIMITATIONS ON USE TO
LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE. THIS CONNECTION, AS WE
HAVE REPORTED, SUDAN GOVT APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING
EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS COURSE IN SEEKING AVOID ANY STEPS
WHICH COULD ACCURATELY BE DESCRIBED BY THIOPIANS AS
SECRET

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"SUDANESE INVASION", THOUGH MILITARY IN RECENT WEEKS
HAVE PERHAPS PROVIDED SOME CROSS-BORDER FIRE SUPPORT,
NOTABLY IN METEMMA SECTOR. WHILE ARMY UNITS ON FRONTIER
REMAINING ON FULL ALERT, POSTURE APPEARS DEFENSIVE IN
LIGHT RECENT MENGISTU PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS. MINDEF STATEMENT
IN APRIL 21 PRESS TO EFFECT THAT FRONTIER SITUATION HAS
BEEN QUIET IN RECENT DAYS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO CALM

INCIPIENT NERVOUSNESS HERE, AS WAS FONMIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN LONDON (PARA 3, KHARTOUM 1331-NOTAL). IN GENERAL, WOULD SEEM WISE FOR US IN PRESENT SENSITIVE STATE HORN SITUATION TO ADOPT LOW-PROFILE TO AVOID EXACERBATING CURRENT DIFFICULTIES.

2. RE C-130'S FOR SUDAN, USG ACTION ON THIS HAS ALREADY TAKEN OVER EIGHT MONTHS AND NOT YET COMPLETE. SINCE WE UNDERSTAND LOCKHEED ASSEMBLY LINE FULLY BOOKED, DELIVERY COULD WELL TAKE MORE THAN TWO YEARS. THUS, ANY POLICY DELAY ON DELIVERY ACTION BY USG WOULD APPEAR UNNECESSARY AND IT WOULD, OF COURSE, GO FAR TO CANCELLING OUT POSITIVE IMPACT OF ORIGINAL DECISION.

3. IN ANY CASE, I WOULD CONCUR WITH ADDIS REFTTEL SUGGESTIONS THAT ETHIOPIANS MAY ALREADY HAVE READ US LOUD AND CLEAR. ACCORDINGLY, FOR REASONS NOTED PARA 1, I TRUST DECISIONS REPORTED STATE REFTTEL WILL NOT RPT NOT BE REOPENED. BREWER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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